

**STATE SENATOR • DEBORAH CHERRY • 26TH DISTRICT**

# Cherry Press Release



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## **NEW LEGISLATION WILL ALLOW SCHOOLS TO SET CELL PHONE POLICIES**

(LANSING)---The State Senate unanimously passed legislation yesterday that will allow Michigan schools to set their own cell phone policies for students. The House bill that passed today was the same as a bill sponsored by Senator Deb Cherry (D-Burton) and passed by the Senate in March.

“It is important to let our school officials develop their own responsible policies regarding cell phone use by students,” said Cherry. “I’m glad that my Republican colleagues in the House recognized the need for this legislation and passed their own version of my bill. School officials know what is best for their own schools and students regarding this issue and decisions should be in their hands.”

As with Senate Bill 294, House Bill 4218 would let school districts determine what policy on pagers, cell phones, and other devices is appropriate for their community. The bill would eliminate the current prohibition on cell phones in schools beginning with the 2004-2005 school year.

“The state ban on pocket pagers, cell phones, and other electronic communications devices was put in place when pagers and cell phones were fairly new and, in many cases, being used for drug sales,” said Cherry. “The times have changed since then and now these devices are used to help parents and children keep in touch throughout the day and after school. It is time for state law to catch up with the times.”

This bill will now be sent to the Governor for her consideration.

Senator Cherry is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and is Minority Vice Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, and the subcommittee on Community Health.

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